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MR. KHRUSHCHOV COMES TO TOWN

A peace treaty with Germany must be signed very soon: and the Soviet Union is ready to make important concessions on the West Berlin question. These were two keynotes of speeches made by Soviet Prime Minister Nikita Khrushchov during his week's visit to the German Democratic Republic at the beginning of March.

On the question of the peace treaty, Mr Khrushchov emphasised that if West Germany refused to sign such a treaty then it would be signed with the German Democratic Republic.

Mr Khrushchov repeated his former proposals that West Berlin should be made a Free City, but as a concession to western objections to withdrawing all troops from West Berlin, he stated: "We would agree that the USA, Britain, France and the Soviet Union, or neutral countries, should keep a minimum of troops in West Berlin to guarantee the status of the Free City."

In the course of the visit the 65-year-old Soviet Premier got through a mammoth programme, wearing out relays of interpreters, and providing millions of words of

copy for hundreds of journalists from all parts of the world.

His programme included the following points:

1. Top level talks with political leaders of the German Democratic Republic on a peace treaty with Germany, the Berlin question, and other key subjects;

2. Talks with Erich Ollenhauer, Chairman of the West German Social Democrats;

3. An extended tour of the Leipzig Trade Fair;

4. A round dozen speeches, including a full-scale address to the All-German Workers' Conference in Leipzig, attended by hundreds of West German trade unionists.

In addition Mr Khrushchov found time for dozens of shorter chats with British M.P.s, West German industrialists, and businessmen and political figures from countries ranging from Finland to Indonesia.

On March 9th Mr Khrushchov conferred for two hours with West German Social Democratic leader Erich Ollenhauer. A joint communique issued after the meeting stated that both sides had agreed that the various problems must be solved by peaceful negotiation. Ollenhauer declared after the meeting: "I have the impression that the Russians will do everything to avoid a conflict and to solve things peacefully."

Willy Brandt, Social Democratic Lord Mayor of West Berlin, declined an invitation to talk things over with Khrushchov. It was learned that the Berlin representatives of the western powers had urged him not to accept the invitation.

The main lines of Soviet policy in the German question were made clear by Mr Khrushchov in

More Pay For Teachers, Miners

Teachers, miners, chemical workers and a variety of lower-paid civil service and municipal workers got considerable pay boosts at the beginning of March.

Over 100,000 teachers received salary increases of at least 70 marks monthly, and special additional grants were given to teachers in country districts. Nursery school teachers and helpers got similar increases, so that their minimum wage is about the same as the average wage paid in industry.

All miners had wage increases averaging about 40 marks monthly

and chemical workers had their pay raised by an average of 30 marks. Particularly big increases were given to the lower-paid categories.

The latest pay raise includes low-grade civil service employees as well as those working for such institutions as schools, hospitals, banks, insurance companies and theatres (including cinema theatres). It means an increase for those employed as repairmen, stenographers, messengers, charwomen, porter and in many other trade groups.

W. German Police Raid Peace Committee

West German police searched and sealed the offices of the West German Peace Committee and other progressive organisations in a large-scale raid on March 3rd.

Heavily armed police squads, ordered into action by West German Minister of the Interior Gerhard Schroeder, former Nazi storm trooper, raided the Peace Committee offices in Dueseldorf, Dortmund, Essen and other

industrial centres. Card indexes and files were seized, and the private residences of many members of the Peace Committee were also searched.

Other police squads sealed the West German offices of the League of Culture, the "Movement for All-German Understanding", and the "Mutual Aid Society" which organised holidays in Democratic Germany for working-class children.

his repeated public declarations. These main lines may be summed up as follows:

a) The states which were at war with Germany should without delay conclude a peace treaty with the two existing German states, a peace treaty which would make a re-birth of aggressive German militarism impossible.

b) If the western powers and the West German Government refuse to sign a peace treaty at this stage, then the Soviet Union and other states such as Poland and Czechoslovakia will sign a peace treaty with the Government of the German Democratic Republic.

c) The signature of such a peace treaty with the German Democratic Republic would mean that

all quadripartite agreements and occupational rulings applying to Berlin would become invalid; the German Democratic Republic would assume complete responsibility for all questions involving access to West Berlin.

In reply to questions put to him by British M.P.s at an official reception in Leipzig, Mr Khrushchov emphasised that the date of May 27th set for the change-over with regard to Berlin was not immutable. If negotiations were in progress by this date, then the hand-over could be postponed until June or July, he stated.

Here are some of the main comments on the German problem and the peace treaty made by the Soviet Prime Minister during his visit:

"We say to the statesmen of the western powers: let us hold a peace conference with the representatives of the two German states, and conclude a peace treaty with Germany which would make impossible a re-birth of aggressive German militarism . . . The ruling circles of the western powers reject our peace proposals, without making any acceptable counter-proposals. And they go further and threaten to use force if we should refuse to participate in the maintenance of the Occupation Statute for West Berlin, and if we hand over to the German Democratic Republic the control over traffic between West Berlin and West Germany . . .

"Some hotheads say that it cannot be tolerated that a peace treaty should be signed with the German Democratic Republic. But we shall sign the peace treaty if the Government of the German Democratic Republic wishes this, even if the Government of the German Federal Republic does not want the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany."

(Speech on March 4th)

"We do not want to solve the problem of Berlin purely on a local basis and apart from the whole German complex. The signing of a peace treaty with the German Democratic Republic would solve the problem of West Berlin. We shall continue to exercise the functions conferred upon us by the Potsdam Agreement and other agreements on Berlin until the peace treaty has been signed with both German states, or with one of them.

"When that has happened, then all of the occupation rulings applying to Berlin will become invalid. The Government of the German Democratic Republic will then exercise sovereign rights on its territory."

(Speech on March 5th)

"We have repeatedly declared and declare once again, that if West Germany and its allies refuse to sign a peace treaty, then we shall sign such a treaty with the German Democratic Republic . . . You may be convinced that we shall not leave the Germans who live in the German Democratic Republic without a peace treaty."

(Speech on March 6th)

WORLD'S BIGGEST TRADE FAIR

New records in export agreements, number of foreign visitors, and number of exhibitors were set by the Leipzig Trade Fair which closed its doors on March 10th.

Final figures for Fair business had not come to hand when this issue of GERMAN REPORT went to press, but preliminary figures showed that export agreements were at least 25% higher than in 1958. In the first seven days of the Fair the industry of the German Democratic Republic was able to conclude export contracts valued at over 1100 million marks (about 100 million pounds). A large part of this trade was arranged with the Soviet Union, which is Democratic Germany's biggest customer: trade with Democratic Germany is the biggest single item in Soviet foreign trade.

Well over one third of the trade agreements were concluded with capitalist countries; negotiations were concluded for steel purchases, for example, with Sweden, Austria and with France, which was the largest western exhibitor at this year's Fair.

Trade with Britain had also made important progress, largely because of the new trade agreement with Democratic Germany. British buyers bought a variety of goods ranging from decorative porcelain and books to potash, furniture and certain types of machine tools.

Contracts for office machinery, one of the specialties of the German Democratic Republic, were concluded with the United States, West Germany and Czechoslovakia.

The Near East countries also played an important part in trade at the Fair. Iraq, which exhibited for the first time this year, offered chiefly

dates, leather, tobacco, leather, cotton and wool, and bought printed matter, pianos and various types of machinery.

The United Arab Republic bought transportation and textile machinery, including a complete spinning factory, and sold cotton and citrus fruits.

The West African republics of Ghana and Guinea both sent government representatives to Leipzig, though neither had as yet their own exhibition. Plans were detailed for the sending of cocoa and other raw materials from Ghana and bananas from Guinea to the German Democratic Republic in exchange for machinery, building materials and other industrial goods.

The Fair, which is a mirror of industrial development within the German Democratic Republic as well as among the many other countries exhibiting, showed great progress in consumer items — such as food packaging, clothing and camping articles — and in various branches of heavy industry, especially in chemical production. Another interesting point was the increasing emphasis on automation.

These developments attracted a huge number of visitors from all parts of the Republic to Leipzig; the most important sidelight to the fair, however — the visit paid by Soviet Premier Khrushchov — caused such an invasion of foreign journalists and other guests from Germany and abroad that the Leipzig Fair management had to appeal to visitors from the German Democratic Republic to stay away from Leipzig until Khrushchov had left, since the Fair city was hopelessly overcrowded.

Our Serial Story:

German Question - New Note

(What happened so far: In September 1958 the German Democratic Republic suggested that the Big Four and the two German states should start work on a peace treaty with Germany. The West ignored the suggestion. On November 27th 1958 the Soviet Government proposed withdrawal of all occupation forces from East and West Berlin, and the conversion of West Berlin into a demilitarised Free City, guaranteed by the Big Four and possibly UN: six months from this date the Soviet Union would turn over to the German Democratic Republic the supervision of western military traffic between West Germany and West Berlin.

On December 31st 1958 the three western powers told the Soviet Union that western occupation garrisons would remain in West Berlin, and that they refused to deal with the German Democratic Republic in place of the Soviet Union.

On January 10th 1959 the Soviet Union submitted the draft for a peace treaty with Germany, to be signed by the two German states or a German confederation. Under the treaty Germany should be neutralised, and barred from possessing nuclear weapons. All foreign troops should leave within one year, and West Berlin should become a demilitarised Free City.

On February 16th 1959 the western powers said they were ready for a Foreign Ministers Conference on the German problem "in all its aspects". The western powers indicated that they were ready to accept "advisers" from the two German states at such a conference. **Now read on.**

On March 2nd the Soviet Union proposed that either a summit conference or a Foreign Ministers Conference should be held during April either in Vienna or Geneva. Poland, Czechoslovakia and the two German states should also attend these conferences.

Here are some of the main points from the Soviet Note addressed to Britain on this subject:

"The British note (of February 16th) does not answer the concrete proposals of the Soviet Union on the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany... and on the normalisation of the situation in Berlin.

"The British Government tries to substitute... statements about the desirability of a consideration of 'the German problem in all its aspects' and has not made any proposals on the essence of the problem.

"The very formulation of the German problem in this note indicates an unwillingness to take into consideration the situation which has developed in Germany, and the demands of common sense. Fourteen years ago Germany, although divided into zones, was a country with a unified social system; today there exist two German states which are developing in different directions. If the western powers really desire a realistic solution of the

German problem, they cannot shut their eyes to this fact."

The western powers had re-armed the West German state, integrated it in NATO, and allowed West Germany to demand rockets and nuclear weapons, the Soviet Note stated. "As a direct result of this policy the European nations once again live in fear of the future.

"The other independent German state, the German Democratic Republic, chose for itself the path of peace and social progress. In this state there is no room for a revival of militarism or a policy of aggression and revenge.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic has refrained from introducing conscription or creating a mass army. The contrast between the two German states is further intensified by the fact that they belong to opposing military and political power groupings, and are bound by specific obligations arising from their membership of these groupings. The German Democratic Republic is a member of the Warsaw Pact organisation, the only aim of which is the consolidation of peace, the reduction of tension, and the ending of the 'cold war'; the German Federal Republic, on the other hand, is an active partner in NATO, where everything is subordinated to the arms race, the desire to keep the world in a state of tension, and preparations for aggressive war."

The Soviet Note stated that the Four Powers were today faced with quite different problems than in the first post-war years: today the primary factor was the existence of the two different German states. This situation would not be changed by any number of statements made by the western powers.

"The proposal of the Soviet Government for the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany has been supported by nine states whose armed forces participated in the war against Hitlerite Germany, states with a population of almost 1,000 million people. In addition the proposal has been widely welcomed in other states. Such facts are convincing arguments in favour of the speedy conclusion of a peace treaty."

The Soviet Note then reiterated the Soviet viewpoint that German reunification was a matter for the Germans themselves, but that the conclusion of a peace treaty could make this reunification easier.

"The conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany would also mean the settlement of the Berlin question... The situation which has developed in Berlin is not normal and represents a serious source of international tension... The Soviet Government is in favour of a solution of this problem acceptable to all interested parties, with the aim of ensuring peace and security for the peoples of Europe.

"For this reason the Soviet Government proposed that West Berlin should be converted into a demilitarised Free City, with its independence... protected by firm international guarantees... The participation of the United Nations in these guarantees is also fully possible...

"With regard to the statements in the British Note concerning its readiness to apply 'all appropriate means' to maintain the occupation of West Berlin, this will not alter the viewpoint of the Soviet Government on the necessity to solve the Berlin problem, and will not influence its intentions in this respect.

"It is scarcely necessary to prove to the British Government that the parties threatened by the application of 'all means' have at their disposal all means necessary to defend themselves and to repel any aggression.

"The Soviet Government would like to emphasise that as the ally of the German Democratic Republic in the Warsaw Pact it will fulfill all its obligations under the pact. All member states of the Warsaw Pact are united in their determination to do everything necessary to maintain peace, and if necessary restore peace.

"In such a situation how should we evaluate the threats circulating in the West that tanks and aircraft should be used to break through to Berlin when the German Democratic Republic as a sovereign state, with which a peace treaty will have been signed, has complete authority over the communications between the German Federal Republic and West Berlin? If these threats really conceal a desire to have recourse to arms, then anyone who decides upon this course will bear the heavy responsibility of unleashing a new war...

"It is the profound conviction of the Soviet Union that timely measures must be taken to avert a dangerous course of events. It therefore returns to its proposal for a summit meeting."

"Even the very fact of such a meeting of heads of government in the present strained situation would undoubtedly contribute to an improvement in the whole international situation... The Soviet Government holds that the heads of government should discuss its proposal on the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany, and appropriate measures for the ending of the abnormal situation which has arisen in connection with the foreign occupation of West Berlin... In addition, the conference of heads of government might also

consider problems of European security and disarmament, the mutual withdrawal of forces and the creation of an atom-free zone, the reduction of the forces of the Soviet Union, Britain, USA and France on the territory of other states, the prohibition of nuclear weapons and the cessation of tests, etc."

The Soviet Note proposed that the summit conference should be attended by the Big Four, by Poland and Czechoslovakia as the first victims of Nazi aggression, and by the two Ger-

man states during that part of the conference at which the peace treaty and West Berlin were discussed.

If the governments of the western powers were not yet ready to hold a summit conference, then the Foreign Ministers of the eight states (Britain, France, Soviet Union, USA, Poland, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, German Federal Republic) should confer, with a time limit for their conference of "two or three months". Either of these conferences should be held in Vienna or Geneva in April, the Soviet Note suggested

"Look Back Again in Anger"

Pamphlet Surveys Angry Old Adenauer

The Union of Democratic Control, the British organisation which has repeatedly in the past called attention to the danger of a Nazi resurgence in West Germany, has published a new and important pamphlet on the situation which we should like to recommend to readers in Britain.

The pamphlet, written by noted publicist Basil Davidson, may be obtained from The Union of Democratic Control, 13 Prince of Wales Terrace, London W.8, for 6d plus 2d postage, 12 copies or more 5s. a dozen post free.

Much of the material in this pamphlet will be familiar to regular readers of GERMAN REPORT, but it is well worth re-reading in this handy condensed form. On this page we present a few passages from the pamphlet:

The British Tories can be blamed for allowing their German rivals to get ahead of them in the export market. But that is not their worst sin. Their worst sin is to have put their rivals back in power. This flowed from the division of Germany.

Leaving aside the argument about who was initially responsible for this division... there is no need for argument about what happened next... The complete reversal in Western Germany of so much that was agreed at Potsdam 1945 — and I do not mean the impossible and reactionary "Morgenthau Plan" for "pastoralising" Germany — does remain a central and staggering fact of post-war history.

The Potsdam Agreement of 1945 had provided for the "deconcentration" of German heavy industry; for the exclusion from any share of running it of the men who had run it for Hitler as well as for their own profit; and for the removal of all Nazi influences from public life. It completely disarmed Germany. It abolished the German General Staff. It proposed to open a new chapter in European history.

But once the decision was taken, and applied, to build a West German State under American control, all these Potsdam agreements proved impossible, unacceptable, doomed to frustration; and all, in fact, were abandoned. Why this was so was explained by General Clay, then U.S. Commander in Western Germany, during an interview with the "New York Herald Tribune" (February 28th 1949). He was commenting on the reasons why at least a quarter of the German "trustees" appointed to act as "guardians" over the Ruhr steel industry... were representatives of the old trusts. "If you make a ruling on the fact that a man made money during the thirteen years Hitler was in", remarked General Clay, "you rule out everybody of ability and experience." In other words, if you ruled out the top capitalists of Hitler's Germany, you couldn't hope to rebuild the same type of economy in post-Hitler Germany.

Like this, in any case, it has turned out. Leaf through a list of the key managers and directors of major industries in Western Germany today, and you will find the same old names recurring again and again. Pfordmenges, Roelen, von Schroeder, Abs, Reusch: they or their lineal successors, their heirs and confidence men and appointees, are all back in power.

In 1949 Ernest Bevin, then British Foreign Secretary, had told the House of Commons that the magnates of German industry were all men who had been "closely allied to the German military machine, who financed Hitler, and who in two world wars were part and parcel of Germany's aggressive policy". Well, there they are again. Today, after nine years of Adenauer, they are more strongly entrenched than ever before.

During the second world war, and for some time after, it was commonly agreed in Britain that Nazism was largely a product of the kind of

social and economic system under which Germans had lived. That kind of system, that kind of capitalism — a highly concentrated, monopolist, aggressive capitalism — had paved the way for Hitler.

Today, beyond reasonable doubt, Western Germany has the same kind of social and economic system as that which led to Hitler in 1933...

"If German industry before Hitler had been owned by the public," declared Ernest Bevin on March 24th 1949, "there would never have been a war." Does anyone doubt this? Can we co-exist with Krupp? We have not been able to do so yet.

Today indeed, after nine years of Adenauer, it is dismally easy to show that the whole fabric and structure of West German life is eaten into and penetrated by people with Nazi or Nazi-like ideas — by people who openly professed these ideas while Hitler was alive and have never publicly renounced them, or by people who do not scruple to put these ideas into new words...

The raising of a West German army, and all that this has implied for people in Germany, has gone far towards completing this process of restoring men and ideas who served Hitler and were honoured by Hitler... Can anyone really imagine that this West German army is a reliable and responsible ally — that it can act in any other way, little by little, than as a reactionary influence destined to push us all gradually across the brink of war?

These are the achievements of nine years of Adenauer:

Reconstruction of a severely right-wing system of power in the greater part of Germany.

Reconstruction of industry and banking in the hands of those who controlled it before.

Rearmament of the men who fought for Hitler.

Return of Nazis or Nazi-like men and women to many influential jobs.

"I WAS WITH ANNE FRANK IN DEATH CAMP"

By Lin Jaldati, Berlin

(Lin Jaldati, a Dutch Jewess who now lives and works in the German Democratic Republic, is well known for interpretations of Yiddish songs. During her imprisonment in the Nazi concentration camps she got to know Anne Frank, the German Jewish girl murdered by the Nazis whose story has been shown all over the world on the stage, and will soon be seen in a film. In this article, published here for the first time in English, Lin Jaldati tells of her meetings with Anne Frank. In the first part of the article, which has had to be cut for reasons of space, Lin Jaldati tells how she first met the Frank family in Westerbork Camp, where Jews rounded up in Holland were assembled, she tells of the transportation to Birkenau, one of the branches of the notorious Auschwitz Concentration Camp, the fiendish "selections" for the gas-chamber, and the further journey to Bergen-Belsen, the horror camp liberated in April 1945 by British troops.)

The transport lasted for several days and nights. When the doors were opened again we were in Bergen, and we had to march in a long column to Belsen.

People we passed on the road paid almost no attention to us (today they say "We knew nothing about it"). Along the road were warning signs marked with the skull-and-crossbones. Then we passed through a door of barbed wire, but we saw no barrack huts, there was no crematorium smoke; we saw only soldiers. We breathed a sigh of relief. We did not know what would happen to us, but we felt sure there would be no selections. Then we came to a number of big tents. From afar it looked as if a huge circus had established itself on the heath.

We did not need to work. We slept and we lived in the tents on the naked earth. When we had had a look round, and heard that there was a tap on a little hill, we hurried there to wash. And as the two of us went up the hill, two thin figures approached, and we fell about one another's necks. The two spoke Dutch. We were four poor shaven-headed figures, thin and shaking. Anne and Margot had many questions, and we too had many questions. We asked about their mother, for we knew that in

Auschwitz the men had been separated from the women. Anne began to cry bitterly, and Margot said quite softly: "Selected".

The two were inseparable, like my sister and I. They looked like two frozen birds, it was painful to look at them. After we had washed, naked in the open air, we were speedily dressed, for we had nothing except a dress and a thin blanket, a blanket which one treasured like a costly possession. Then we crept together in one of the tents. We were thin, and we had four blankets, and we warmed each other.

Three days later came a frightful November storm. The tents tore and collapsed, and many people were injured. We were quartered in an old barn filled with rags and old shoes. Anne asked: "Why do they want us to become animals?", and one of us replied: "Because they are themselves beasts of prey."

Birkenau was organised hell. There had been at least something to eat: here there was nothing. Here you had to see to it yourself if you wanted to get something. Here the hell was quite merciless. But despite this we believed that we might stay alive, and Anne and Margot believed this too. Anne used to imagine how it would be when we went back to Amsterdam, and then her eyes lit up. "Then we shall go and have a feast in the most expensive restaurants." And we compiled the menu, masses of wonderful things to eat. And Anne said she still had a lot to learn.

We grew ever thinner. Anne seemed to consist only of her eyes, great brown eyes with a greenish glint. After leaving the barn filled with rags, misery grew increasingly. We were shoved from one block to another. We had to work, tearing leather soles from old shoes, but we got for this a little more watery soup and a piece of bread. Our hands began to bleed and to fester. Several people died of blood poisoning. Anne and I were the first who had to stop working. Margot and my sister stood it for rather longer, but they shared their food with us. Anne and I began to "organise" things, to steal from the kitchen, or to beg. If you were caught, this meant a beating, but we were not caught.



The poster for a new film on Anne Frank, just completed in Democratic Germany

December had come, and Christmas time was nearing. We saved scraps from our scanty bread ration, and received a special ration of one-quarter of a Harz cheese. Anne had found a small piece of garlic somewhere. I had sung some songs in another block, and been rewarded with a little sauerkraut. The Daniel sisters, with whom we were together, had organised a beetroot and a carrot. With our six blankets we improvised a table, and with these ingredients we made a Christmas feast. We had saved a little ersatz coffee from breakfast, and warmed it secretly on a stove, and we had roasted some potato peels. That was our Christmas feast. Anne said: "And we are celebrating Hanuka at the same time." (Hanuka is the Jewish Feast of Lights.) Softly we sang Jewish songs, and wept. Anne's eyes glittered. She told us stories. We thought they must be old stories which we did not happen to know. But now I know that they were stories that Anne had made up herself. Margot started to tell a story too, but she could not go on, and Anne completed it for her. She said that her father knew much better stories and Margot began to cry, asking whether he was still alive. Anne was confident: "Of course he is alive." Then we sang together softly a Dutch song:

"Waar de blanks top der duinen". We were very homesick. Then we went to sleep, and cried under the blanket.

New transports arrived, and we were beaten out of our block. Now we had no roof over our head. There was no more roll-call, but by evening we had to be in a block. We had to get in somewhere: outside we would be shot.

We were taken to another part of the camp. A group of older women and children were also brought there. Anne came excitedly to us: "Let us go there, maybe there are friends among them, they are said to be all Dutch." She wanted to go ever immediately. At this moment, I believe, she was the Anne which we know from the Diary, mercurial and full of life; at other times I only saw her serious and sad. There were some boys and girls whom Anne knew: Carry Vos, Roosje Pinkhof. But Anne was soon sad again. Her friends had been on exchange lists, and should have been sent to a neutral country, but despite this they had landed in Belsen. She asked after other friends, and learned that Lies, a good friend of hers, was quite near, and she could speak to her in the evening if she were careful. From Lies she got a few little gifts, which pleased her very much. She wanted to share everything with us, but we told her that the gifts were for her and Margot.

An SS wardress came to our block and asked for nurses. My sister and

I volunteered. We were transferred to another block with Dutch women and children, for whom we cared as best we could. We asked Anne and Margot if they would like to work with us, but Margot had a bad attack of dysentery and could not stand, and because of the danger of typhus infection she had to stay in the old block. Anne looked after her as well as she could. We were able to bring them a little food which we had organised. A few days later we heard that they were in the sick bay. We went there and urged them not to stay, because if they stayed lying they would perish. But it was at least warm there, and there were only two of them in the bunk. Anne said: "We are together and we have our peace." Margot said scarcely anything. She had high fever and smiled contentedly. Her mind was already wandering...

A few days later we visited them again, together with Roosje Pinkhof. Margot had fallen from the bunk, and was half unconscious. Anne was already feverish. She was very friendly and loving: "Margot will sleep well, and when she sleeps I don't need to get up any more."

When we returned a few days later, the bunk was empty. We knew what this meant. We looked for them, and found them. Four of us laid the thin bodies on a blanket and carried them to the great open grave. We could do

no more, but at least nobody could now desecrate their bodies. They had died shortly after each other.

We all had fever. We could not have held out much longer; it was a period of feverish horror. About fourteen days later came liberation, a liberation which I do not remember, for I was unconscious. When I came to, I found myself in the military hospital in Belsen.

On May 27th 1945, after an adventurous journey, I returned to Holland with my sister. I was very sick. Many people came to visit me in Amsterdam to enquire after their dear ones. Otto Frank was one of those who came. I could only tell him what I knew, and as in so many other cases I had to tell him that those who were dearest to him would never return. He was a broken man. Today he lives for only one thing: that Anne's diary may bring people nearer to each other, and that such a senseless slaughter will never be repeated.

Anne and Margot, and with them millions of others, were brutally slaughtered. Anne was an upright young girl, much concerned with her problems. She was still very young, but a person who had much to give. She must remain unforgettable for us, and particularly for you who are young. We must all stand together so that such a slaughter is never repeated, and that we can all live in peace.

...AND WHO MURDERED HER?

Anne Frank was just one of the many millions of victims of the nazis, victims who came from every nation in Europe. Anne Frank died of starvation and disease, but she was murdered just as surely as if she had been hanged, or shot, or gassed.

A group of young film makers in the German Democratic Republic set out to find what had happened to the people who had murdered her, and

millions of others, and they have presented their conclusions in a new documentary film, called "A Diary For Anne Frank".

This film, which has just been released by the DEFA Film Company in Berlin, presents horrible documents from the past; but it goes on to show, with candid camera shots made only a few months ago in West Germany, that many of the people who

had a direct hand in Anne Frank's death are living, free and prosperous, in West Germany today.

In this film we see such people as SS Lieutenant Albert Konrad Gemmeker, who was Commandant of the Jewish Assembly Camp at Westerbork, through which Anne Frank passed. Today he is a prosperous businessman, living at 55 Park Strasse Duesseldorf.

Another man shown in the film is Dr Hermann Conring, war-time administrator of the province of Groningen in nazi-occupied Holland. Today he is a Christian Democratic M.P. in the West German Parliament.

The film "A Diary For Anne Frank" shows war-time photos of Max Faust, chief engineer of the IG Farben factory in Auschwitz, which worked concentration camp prisoners quite literally to death. Today he is a prosperous businessman working for one of the successor firms of IG Farben, and living at 32 Ruben Strasse Ludwigshafen.

His boss, Otto Ambros, wrote the following letter on April 12th 1941 to the directors of IG Farben:

Win a New Reader

Fill in the name and address of a friend, work-mate or acquaintance on the form below, and send it to

Democratic German Report
Friedrichstrasse 167/III
Berlin W 8, Germany

We shall be pleased to mail sample copies of the paper to him or her.

Name

Address

"...our new friendship with the SS is proving very beneficial. At a dinner given us by the chiefs of the concentration camp (Auschwitz) we laid down all measures concerning the adaptation of the really first-class organisation of the concentration camp for the purposes of the Buna works..."

Dr. Ambros is today member of the board of directors of five leading West German companies, including a mining company owned by the West German state. He lives in a luxurious villa at 14 Kniebis Strasse in Mannheim, and the new film shows him setting out for a drive in 1958 in a big new glossy car.

And so the film goes on, with picture after picture of the murderers who survived. It ends with the following words, spoken almost in a whisper by Kathe Szekely, a Jewish girl, who is today the same age as Anne Frank when she was killed:

"You were their victim, Anne Frank:
But your murderers are back again
in West Germany.
For you the horror was nameless,
But we know the names.
We know that they would do the
same again
Unless we prevent it."

You can find more details of this film, together with reproductions of some of the documents and stills, in a special pamphlet issued by the film company in English and German. Other details of resurgent anti-Semitism in West Germany are given in a pamphlet in English published by the Committee for German Unity in Berlin. Copies of both these pamphlets can be obtained by filling out the form on this page. Please only order these pamphlets if you are really interested, since supplies are limited.

Airlines Extend Services

Lufthansa, the national civil air line of the German Democratic Republic, concluded inter-line agreements with the Greek "Olympic Airways" and the Icelandic "Loftleidir Airways" at the end of February.

These new agreements mean that the airlines of the Democratic Republic are now linked with most main international lines, with the exception of British and American undertakings.

First planes from Democratic Germany to make direct flights with a western European capital commenced services between Berlin and Copenhagen on February 26th.

Pamphlets Which Name Names

Democratic German Report

167 Friedrichstrasse

Berlin W 8

Germany

Please send me the following pamphlets

A Diary For Anne Frank

Witch Hunt Against Jews

(Check title wanted)

Name

Address

Block letters, please!

Democratic Germany Supports African Freedom

Democratic Germany has formally pledged its support to the peoples and states of Africa in their struggle for national independence. The pledge was given in an official announcement from the Foreign Ministry on March 3rd.

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic reiterates that its foreign policy is based upon the principles of peaceful co-existence and the right to self-determination of every nation" the statement said. "The Government assures the peoples and states of Africa that it will do all in its power to support the just struggle for independence and freedom in Africa."

Here are some of the main points made by the statement:

1. Democratic Germany greets the foundation of new independent African states such as Guinea, with which it already has friendly relations.

2. Democratic Germany condemns the brutal suppression of national independence movements in the Belgian Congo, Nyasaland and Rhodesia.

3. Democratic Germany urges the United Nations to support the reunification and national independence of the Cameroons, at present partitioned and administered as "trusteeship territory" by Britain and France.

GROTEWOHL IS 65

Otto Grotewohl, Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic, celebrated his 65th birthday on March 11th.

Prime Minister Grotewohl, who has headed the Government of the German Democratic Republic since its formation in October 1949, was born in Brunswick in 1894. He learned the trade of printer, and joined the Social Democratic Party at the age of 17.

During the Weimar republic (1919 to 1933) he served for a period as Social Democratic Minister of Education in the Brunswick Provincial Government, and later as Social Democratic M.P. in the Reichstag from 1925 to 1933.

Under Hitler, Otto Grotewohl was active in the socialist underground, and was twice arrested.

After the overthrow of the Nazi regime, Grotewohl became first chairman of the re-formed Social Democratic Party in East Germany. His experiences in the underground struggle against fascism had convinced him that the workers' parties must unite if they were to win, and he played a leading part in bringing about this unification. In April 1946 the Social Democrats and the Communists in East Germany joined to form one party, and Otto Grotewohl became joint chairman of the newly formed Socialist Unity Party, together with Wilhelm Pieck, veteran Communist.

In October 1949, on the formation of the German Democratic Republic, President Wilhelm Pieck summoned Grotewohl to form the first cabinet, and he has served as Prime Minister ever since.

GUEST NOTEBOOK

Clothing stores in Democratic Germany during the last few weeks were jammed with eager buyers, all looking, feeling, asking prices and, almost always, carrying packages away with them. Rather tired looks on the sales-girls' faces were also noticeable. The reason for all this running around was a big clothing sale which lasted from February 23rd to March 7th, an event worth mentioning because end-of-season sales are not an annual feature here as they are in some countries.

A system of price-controls operates here which means that a store, whether nationally owned, cooperative or private, sells its goods at set prices, which allow a fixed profit margin. Then, after a while, there is a price cut, and all goods in certain categories are sold at the lower rates. October 1958 saw such a reduction for shoes, leather goods and soap, in January it was rice and lastly, sugar and margarine.

Slashed

But this was a bargain sale of old stock, something quite different. Huge quantities of dresses, suits, coats, blouses, underwear and other apparel were slashed in price, usually one-third to one-half, sometimes more. And if the few previous sales had largely been of items which Grandmother might wear in the garden — stocks left over because nobody wanted to buy them — this time there were, along with some such items, lots of real bargains, good, wearable, attractive and inexpensive. I should know — after taking some notes for this article, I found myself carrying home a spring overcoat, trousers and a sweater.

Clothing has been a considerable problem in Democratic Germany in the past. Although rather expensive, there was a tendency to lag behind the latest switches in fashion — a very serious defect in most women's eyes.

Of course, there were much more serious problems not so long ago. Some clothes were still rationed till 1953 — and for several years thereafter, I remember that one often had to hunt for such everyday things as handkerchiefs, washrags or bed-sheets. It was always just the thing you were looking for which was missing at the moment. Then increasing production steadily ended this situation — except for occasional gaps in the "matrons' sizes" or in some children's clothing.

By Allen Mann

But many prices remained high. Buying an overcoat or a suit still meant saving money for some time, especially where the household included many children and only one breadwinner.

This situation changes everytime there is a wage raise or a price cut in foods or other goods (like shoes), for the family has more money left for clothing then, of course. To cut clothing prices themselves means more production — one key to this is getting the raw materials.

Democratic Germany produces no cotton or silk and very little wool. That is why trade deals with the Sudan or the United Arab Republic for cotton or with the Soviet Union for wool (to name two examples) are welcomed so heartily here. And that is why the mining of lignite (soft coal) is so important. Not only does it mean more electricity for the textile factories and mean also more exporting and thus more imports. Coal is also a main ingredient of textiles.

Synthetics

Chemists here have used lignite in developing a series of synthetic fibres and materials resembling, but not the same as, related fibres in other countries. Their names are Wolcrylon and Prelana, Lanon, PeCe and, most famous of all, Perlon — a relative of Nylon. These are being produced in ever-increasing quantities and several big new factory-complexes are planned. The biggest success so far has been with Perlon stockings and with very elegant and charming ladies' lingerie.

But lingerie, however attractive, can at best be admired by a relatively small number of friends or acquaintances. And so we come to the last problem — clothing styles and keeping up with the latest fashions (over and above lingerie, that is).

There have been heroic attempts to keep up with the newest A-lines, B-lines, H-lines, etc. and even with sack dresses. I just managed to talk my wife out of buying the last-named monstrosity, in fact, and now that danger seems to be past. But many women complain that it has been a question of "too little and too late".

It seems that many factories, usually run by men, have been

satisfied with producing as much as possible in terms of quantity and not worrying so much about fashion. And since the demand has been so large because buying power has increased so rapidly, they could often get away with this.

Of course the women have been complaining very persistently about this. So have the women's organisation, the Fashion Institute and many newspapers. There have been many fashion shows and Fashion Weeks, which also help. And although further progress will require more pressure of this kind, and is also related to the various economic questions I have mentioned, things have already reached such a point that a friend recently complained to me: "A few years ago I didn't mind shopping with my wife — she never found what she wanted. Now she does."

Modest Proposal

A brilliant suggestion for preventing West Germany from becoming a menace to the world once again has been propounded by Mr George Pollock, Director of the British Employers' Confederation. His plan: to ensure that West Germany spends enormous sums on atom bombs.

Let me give you the plan in Mr Pollock's own words, uttered at a "New Thinking" luncheon of the Industrial Welfare Society on February 19th:

"While America and Britain are spending enormous sums on nuclear weapons I tremble to think what will happen if Britain has to bear the burden of armaments and Germany not."

The Pollock Plan would undoubtedly be a step in the right direction if its originator went on to draw the conclusion that neither Britain nor West Germany should spend enormous sums on nuclear weapons; but he wants both Britain and West Germany to throw their money away in this manner, for he went on to attack Labour Party proposals that East and West Germany should be included in an atom-free zone.

I cannot recall any proposal which can come up to the Pollock Plan for sheer inhumanity since the "Modest Proposal" made by Dean Jonathan Swift some 250 years ago that Irish babies should be bred as food for the starving Irish: and Dean Swift made his proposals in a spirit of deadly satire. Mr Pollock apparently expects to be taken seriously.